

**COMMUNITY AND HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE  
FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

Board Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2008 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C  
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

**CHOICE Board Members in Attendance:** Blake Jackson, Glenda Russell, Prudence Twigg, Senator Jean Breaux, Humbert Lopes (COA Representative)

**CHOICE Board Members Absent:** Pete Emigh, Representative Peggy Welch, Senator Vaneta Becker

**Visitors in Attendance:** Cynthia McQuigg, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Kelly Willis-Rice, Ruth Ratzlaff, Jean Macdonald, Lorealee Moore, Melissa Durr, Linda Muckway, Paul Chase, June Holt, Mary Rita Hurley, John Cardwell, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson, Willie Poindexter

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Blake Jackson called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum to vote on the previous meeting minutes.

Humbert Lopes provided an update on the latest Commission on Aging meeting.

**Division of Aging Update:** Celeste Stinson provided an update on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program on behalf of Ellen Burton, MFP Director. Chairperson Jackson asked when we expect people to begin transitioning and Celeste said she would ask Ellen for that information.

Celeste reviewed current CHOICE Board vacancies, which have increased since the last meeting due to member terms expiring. The Division of Aging is in contact with the Governor's office and they are working to fill the vacant positions. Celeste thanked AARP for coordinating with the Indiana Alliance for Retired Americans and United Senior Action of Indiana to provide additional applicants for the vacant Board positions.

At the last meeting, the Board requested further information of the CHOICE waitlist category "no funds available." Celeste said the Division is still compiling the CHOICE year end claims and she hopes to have more information to report on this at the next meeting.

Celeste reviewed data on the CHOICE waitlists from each AAA for fiscal year 2008. She was asked why some AAAs had decreased waitlist numbers while others had increased. She said she would look into it for the next meeting. The Board also asked for data on number of people getting onto and off of the CHOICE waitlist during the fiscal year and the Division hopes to have that information for the next meeting as well.

The assisted living data information that Senator Becker had requested, including number of providers and people served by county, will be presented at the next meeting.

Celeste discussed handouts for state fiscal year 2008 that included information about people served by county for the CHOICE, Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver and Traumatic Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver programs. She was asked about trends from 2007 for the Aged and Disabled Waiver data as well as information on specific number of CHOICE services provided. She will look into these issues.

There was a discussion on presumptive eligibility and how it pertains to the CHOICE Board. Chairperson Jackson asked the Board if they had specific questions on the issue that the Division of Aging could respond to. Prudence said it affects all home and community based services as all clients are required to apply for Medicaid. Senator Breaux inquired about the specifics of the program and Melissa Durr provided some insight as well. Prudence said she thinks the Board should be updated on the process and Senators Becker and Breaux want to discuss the topic. Melissa Durr said it is OMPP's topic, so Dr. Jeff Wells would need to be included.

Chairperson Jackson said he is still waiting on a response to his QFR questions.

**New Business:** Preliminary copies of the Annual Report were presented to the Board for review and comment back to Celeste Stinson by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Celeste said she was able to implement some of the Taskforce's recommendations this year, including charts, graphs and an Executive Summary.

Senator Breaux and Senator Becker will submit a letter to the Governor's office regarding the vacancies on the Board and Celeste will look into the rules for a quorum.

Dates for the next QFR will be forwarded to the members by Celeste.

**Public Comments:** John Cardwell spoke on the renewal of the Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver and the cap on clients' hours. Jade Luchauer reiterated that Division of Aging Director Megan Ornellas will speak to this topic.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.